

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TAMPA BAY AREA - RUSKIN FL  
1200 PM EDT MON SEP 22 2008

..AUTUMN HAS OFFICIALLY BEGUN, SO WHEN IS IT GOING TO COOL OFF?

ASTRONOMICALLY SPEAKING AUTUMN BEGAN AT 11:44 AM TODAY...BUT ACROSS WEST CENTRAL AND SOUTHWEST FLORIDA THE TEMPERATURES ARE ANYTHING BUT FALL-LIKE. WE`VE HAVE HAD A RESPITE FROM SOME OF THE HIGHER HUMIDITY OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS WITH DEW POINTS EACH AFTERNOON FALLING INTO THE MID 60S...BUT HIGH TEMPERATURES HAVE CONTINUED IN THE UPPER 80S TO LOWER 90S.

DURING MOST YEARS WE DO NOT SEE THE FIRST SHOT OF COOLER DRIER AIR UNTIL THE MIDDLE OF OCTOBER...ALBEIT USUALLY IS RATHER SHORT LIVED LASTING ONLY A DAY OR TWO...WITH THE REAL COOL DOWN NOT OCCURRING UNTIL NOVEMBER. A GOOD WAY TO EXAMINE THE TIMING OF THE FIRST COOL DOWN IS BY LOOKING AT OVERNIGHT LOW TEMPERATURES. THE OVERNIGHT LOW TEMPERATURES ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON A FEW FACTORS...NOT THE LEAST BEING THE AMOUNT OF CLOUD COVERAGE...HOW STRONG THE WINDS ARE AND THE AMOUNT OF MOISTURE IN THE AIR NEAR THE GROUND MEASURED BY LOOKING AT THE DEW POINT. IN GENERAL OVERNIGHT LOW TEMPERATURES CANNOT FALL BELOW THE DEW POINT...THEREFORE IF THE DEW POINTS ARE STILL IN THE UPPER 60S TO LOWER 70S AS THEY ARE NOW...THEN THE OVERNIGHT LOW TEMPERATURES WILL MOST LIKELY ALSO BE IN THE UPPER 60S TO LOWER 70S UNLESS A COOL FRONT MOVES THROUGH DURING THE NIGHT. SO TO SEE WHEN THE FIRST COOL FRONT MOVES ACROSS THE REGION LETS LOOK AT THE DATES WHEN LOW TEMPERATURES FALL BELOW DIFFERENT THRESHOLDS AT SOME LOCATIONS.

LOOKING AT THE FOLLOWING TABLES WE DO SEE THAT THE AVERAGE TIME OF THE FIRST COOL FRONT APPEARS TO BE DURING MID-OCTOBER. THIS IS WHEN TEMPERATURES GENERALLY FALL INTO THE MID 50S ACROSS INLAND PORTIONS OF THE NATURE COAST AND BELOW 60 DEGREES ELSEWHERE ACROSS WEST CENTRAL AND SOUTHWEST FLORIDA. THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS NEAR THE COAST WHERE THE WATER KEEPS TEMPERATURES HIGHER AND THESE AREAS TAKE LONGER TO FALL BELOW 60 DEGREES, AS SEEN AT ST. PETERSBURG.

DATE OF FIRST LOW TEMPERATURE <= 60 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT

LOCATION	EARLIEST	LATEST	AVERAGE	RECORDS BEGAN
CHIEFLAND 5 SE	AUG 27 1969	OCT 25 1959	SEP 28	1956
INVERNESS 3 SE	SEP 09 1997	OCT 25 1959	OCT 07	1948
BUSHNELL 2 E	SEP 09 1997	NOV 03 1969	OCT 06	1948
BROOKSVILLE CHIN HILL	SEP 16 2001	NOV 04 1900	OCT 10	1892
ST LEO	SEP 14 2001	NOV 08 1919	OCT 11	1895
TARPON SPRINGS	SEP 19 1981*	NOV 15 1919	OCT 13	1892
TAMPA INTERNATIONAL	SEP 19 1981	NOV 15 1919	OCT 17	1890
ST PETERSBURG	OCT 01 1920	DEC 04 1986	OCT 27	1915
PLANT CITY	SEP 15 1918	NOV 05 1900	OCT 10	1893
LAKELAND	SEP 19 1981	NOV 14 1946	OCT 18	1946
BARTOW	SEP 19 1981	NOV 14 1946	OCT 14	1892
WINTER HAVEN	SEP 19 1981	NOV 14 1946	OCT 19	1941
PARRISH	SEP 19 1981	NOV 03 2007	OCT 15	1958
SARASOTA-BRADENTON	SEP 20 1981	NOV 02 1994	OCT 13	1948
WAUCHULA 2 N	SEP 19 1981	NOV 07 1941	OCT 13	1933
AVON PARK 2 W	SEP 20 1981	NOV 14 1946	OCT 16	1902
ARCADIA	SEP 16 1962	NOV 19 1911	OCT 12	1901
ARCHBOLD BIO STN	SEP 08 1997	NOV 04 2007	OCT 06	1969
VENICE	SEP 27 1956	NOV 05 1998*	OCT 18	1956
PUNTA GORDA 4 ESE	OCT 02 2001*	NOV 05 1985	OCT 19	1965
FORT MYERS	OCT 01 1920*	DEC 03 1986	OCT 27	1902

\* LAST OF MULTIPLE OCCURRENCES

DATE OF FIRST LOW TEMPERATURE <= 55 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT

LOCATION	EARLIEST	LATEST	AVERAGE	RECORDS BEGAN
CHIEFLAND 5 SE	SEP 10 1963	OCT 27 1994	OCT 07	1956
INVERNESS 3 SE	SEP 16 1956	NOV 05 1985	OCT 16	1948
BUSHNELL 2 E	SEP 27 1956	NOV 05 1950	OCT 16	1948
BROOKSVILLE CHIN HILL	SEP 16 2001	NOV 14 2003*	OCT 20	1892
ST LEO	SEP 19 1981	NOV 15 1919	OCT 21	1895
TARPON SPRINGS	SEP 20 1981	NOV 25 1922	OCT 22	1892
TAMPA INTERNATIONAL	SEP 22 1897	NOV 25 1948	OCT 27	1890
ST PETERSBURG	OCT 01 1920	DEC 15 1998*	NOV 07	1915
PLANT CITY	SEP 20 1981	NOV 22 1986	OCT 20	1893
LAKELAND	OCT 03 1984	NOV 25 1948	OCT 24	1946
BARTOW	SEP 22 1913*	NOV 25 1922	OCT 24	1892
WINTER HAVEN	OCT 04 1974	DEC 03 1986	OCT 28	1941
PARRISH	OCT 02 1984	NOV 14 2003	OCT 22	1958
SARASOTA-BRADENTON	OCT 04 1974	NOV 24 1994	OCT 25	1948
WAUCHULA 2 N	SEP 27 1956	NOV 22 1986	OCT 24	1933
AVON PARK 2 W	OCT 01 1920	NOV 25 1948*	OCT 27	1902
ARCADIA	OCT 01 1920	DEC 04 1986	OCT 25	1901
ARCHBOLD BIO STN	SEP 29 2006	DEC 03 1986	OCT 20	1969
VENICE	OCT 03 1974	DEC 03 1986	OCT 29	1956
PUNTA GORDA 4 ESE	OCT 10 2000	DEC 04 1986	OCT 31	1965
FORT MYERS	OCT 01 1920	DEC 11 1994	NOV 05	1902

\* LAST OF MULTIPLE OCCURRENCES

DATE OF FIRST LOW TEMPERATURE <= 50 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT

LOCATION	EARLIEST	LATEST	AVERAGE	YEAR RECORDS BEGAN
CHIEFLAND 5 SE	SEP 20 1981	NOV 06 1998	OCT 15	1956
INVERNESS 3 SE	OCT 02 2001	NOV 21 1986	OCT 25	1948
BUSHNELL 2 E	OCT 02 1984	NOV 14 2003	OCT 24	1948
BROOKSVILLE CHIN HILL	SEP 22 1897	NOV 30 1958	OCT 30	1892
ST LEO	SEP 22 1897	NOV 30 1958	OCT 31	1895
TARPON SPRINGS	OCT 01 1920	DEC 05 1919	NOV 02	1892
TAMPA INTERNATIONAL	OCT 11 1906	DEC 15 1998	NOV 08	1890
ST PETERSBURG	OCT 24 1937	JAN 02 1987	NOV 20	1915
PLANT CITY	OCT 04 1929	NOV 25 1948	OCT 29	1893
LAKELAND	OCT 10 2000	DEC 11 1958	NOV 05	1946
BARTOW	OCT 01 1920	DEC 16 1998	NOV 02	1892
WINTER HAVEN	OCT 14 1977	DEC 03 1986	NOV 07	1941
PARRISH	OCT 10 1976	DEC 16 1998	OCT 22	1958
SARASOTA-BRADENTON	OCT 14 1977	DEC 04 1986	NOV 03	1948
WAUCHULA 2 N	OCT 14 1977	DEC 04 1986	NOV 01	1933
AVON PARK 2 W	OCT 04 1929	DEC 12 1994	NOV 05	1902
ARCADIA	OCT 01 1920	DEC 12 1994	NOV 02	1901
ARCHBOLD BIO STN	OCT 09 1972	DEC 12 1994	OCT 30	1969
VENICE	OCT 14 1977	DEC 12 1994	NOV 09	1956
PUNTA GORDA 4 ESE	OCT 14 1977	JAN 02 1987	NOV 11	1965
FORT MYERS	OCT 01 1920	DEC 11 1994	NOV 05	1902

\* LAST OF MULTIPLE OCCURRENCES

AS A SIDE NOTE, FOR THOSE WHO MISS OR WOULD LIKE TO SEE WHERE THE FOLIAGE HAS BEGUN TO CHANGE COLOR ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, VISIT THE USDA FOREST SERVICE WEB SITE LISTED BELOW.

[HTTP://WWW.FS.FED.US/NEWS/FALLCOLORS/](http://WWW.FS.FED.US/NEWS/FALLCOLORS/)

FOR MORE LOCAL CLIMATE INFORMATION...PLEASE SEE OUR WEB PAGE AT [HTTP://WEATHER.GOV/TAMPABAY](http://WEATHER.GOV/TAMPABAY) AND CLICK ON THE "LOCAL" LINK UNDER THE CLIMATE SUBSECTION ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE PAGE.

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